

C.)  
 NAME: Nitta, Choichi (Charles) DATE OF BIRTH: 3/17/1887 PLACE OF BIRTH: Yamaguchi  
 Age: 86 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: 8 yrs in Japan & Night school in  
US.

## PRE-WAR:

\*\*Date of arrival in U.S.: 2/22/1903 Age: 16 M.S. S Port of entry: San Fran.  
 Occupation/s: 1. Student/School Boy 2. Farmer 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of residence: 1. San Francisco, Ca. 2. Watsonville, Ca. 3. Sacramento, Ca.  
 Religious affiliation: Christian Church 4. Loomis, Ca.  
 Community organizations/activities: Chairman of Japanese Association

EVACUATION: \*\*Nitta arrived in Hawaii in October 1902.

Name of assembly center: Marysville Assembly Center

Name of relocation center: Tule Lake, Ca. & Minidoka, Idaho

\* Dispensation of property: Ranch-Fruit Growers Asso. \*Names of bank/s: Federal Land

Jobs held in camp: 1. Monitor (Marysville) 2. Ward Leader (T.L.) Bank

Jobs held outside of camp: (Apple) Ranch Worker (While in Minidoka Camp)

Left camp to go to: Loomis, California

## POST-WAR:

\* House - Rented

Date returned to West Coast: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/es: 1. Loomis, California 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Religious affiliation: Christian Church

Activities: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: 3. Oct 4, 1988

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 12/21/73 Place: Sacramento, Calif.

*Translator: Yasuka Akemitsu*

NAME: MR. CHOICHI NITTA

AGE: 86 years old

Birthdate: March 17, 1887

Place of Birth: Yamaguchi Prefecture, Kumakegun

Year you came to the U.S.: 1888

At what age did you come to the U.S.: 16 years old

Major Occupation: Farmer

Husband's (wife's) Occupation: Housewife

Relocation Camp: Tule Lake then Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho

Interview Date: December 21, 1973

Interviewer: Reverend Heihachiro Takarabe

Translator: Yasuka Akamatsu

Translated Date:

Typist: Leah Fujiwara

NAME: MR. CHOICHI NITTA

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture (Japan), Kumakegun  
a place called "Same".

Q: When were you born?

A: Meiji 20, March 17th. (It is in 1887)

Q: Please tell me your full name.

A: My name is Choichi Nitta but when I acquired my U.S.  
citizenship, I changed it to Charles C. Nitta.

Q: Do you remember something that happened in Japan before  
you came to this country?

A: There was a war -- The Japan and China War. It was when  
I was 7 or 8 years old. My uncle went to serve and came  
back safely but my neighbor who went with him got lost  
and never came back. This uncle came to Hawaii later.  
When I tried to come to America (U.S. Mainland), the  
procedures were difficult so I asked my uncle to secure  
a passport for me to come to Hawaii. From there, he paid  
my expenses to the U.S. Mainland. I arrived in San  
Francisco and stayed at Tamura Hotel but didn't have  
much money so I couldn't stay there very long. The  
YMCA was on Haight Street. Do you know about it?

Q: Was Reverend Koga there?

A: Reverend Sumio Koga's father was the minister there and  
Tamasaki Watanabe was the secretary. Dr. Sturge was the

superintendent of the churches (Presbyterian) and I learned English from him at the YMCA. My uncle who came with me from Hawaii was working on a strawberry farm near Watsonville. I stayed in San Francisco about one year but went to Watsonville at the insistance of my uncle. I entered the 6th grade in grammar school there. I was already 17 years old but it wasn't too obvious because I was small in stature. I graduated the grammar school there. My 8th grade teacher, Miss Vanhouse asked me if I wanted to come to a Christian Church Sunday School. I asked if I had to pay to go there and her reply was "No" and all I have to do is come there. I started to go as I thought it would help me learn English. It was a Caucasian Presbyterian Church on 3rd Street in Watsonville. I understood a little English but couldn't understand much at the Bible Study class because it was new to me and I didn't have any knowledge of Christianity. The pastor's name was Mr. Rich and he was a big man. He gave interesting talks in church school and made us laugh. There was a place we called "The Mission" which was a Presbyterian evangelical outpost in Watsonville. A person by the name of Mr. Shima who lived there came to the Presbyterian Church I was attending and told me there was this Japanese church and he invited me to come there. The gathering place was a house on Union Street. This was the beginning of the Japanese Presbyterian Church there. About 15 or 16 persons gathered on Sundays. This is the first Japanese Christian Church I attended.

(It later moved and now there is a beautiful church near Front Street. It's the present Westview Presbyterian Church.) While I was attending there, I was asked to be baptized and become a member.

I had a schoolmate, Mr. Fukumoto (who was not a Christian) who had a acquaintance, a navy officer on a Japanese training battleship. The ship was arriving in San Francisco and he asked me if I wanted to come along with him to meet the officer. My childhood dream was to become a navy officer -- go to college and Naval Academy and become an admiral. My father was against my idea because he had several acres of land and being the eldest son he wanted me to take over and farm the place. He thought I would not have to worry about making a living. He thought I didn't need more than an elementary school education. My father was educated in a private temple school (Buddhist). When he was 16, he cut his samurai hair-do. He would not give me permission to go to college so I decided to come to my uncle's place in Hawaii. I secretly applied for a passport and received it. I needed money for transportation to Hawaii but my father was upset and would not give it to me. My mother also thought that I should listen to my father, get married when I reached over 20 and maintain the home. I told my mother the only way out for me was to choose death. I wasn't that serious but she was shocked and did not want that to happen. She persuaded my father to pay for my transportation to Hawaii. My uncle was a younger brother

of my father and he understood me better. When I mentioned of my wanting to come to Mainland America, he said, "If you are going, I think I will, too." He paid my way and we both came over.

Q: What year was this?

A: It was in February 1888 on Washington's Birthday. Because of the holiday, we had to stay on the ship overnight in San Francisco. The next day on the 23rd, we went to Angel Island for our physical examination before we landed. I was in Hawaii only a few months.

Q: What was your father's religion?

A: It was Buddhism. Those days, we didn't know about Christianity in our area.

Q: You didn't know about Christianity while in Japan?

A: No, I didn't. However, there was an incident. I think it was a person by the name of Mr. Noguchi -- (I am not sure) he came to America to study and received his Bachelor of Arts. He became a Christian while he was in America, came back to Japan and opened a private high school. He was the principal but passed away early. His funeral was a Christian funeral. While they were singing hymns to organ music and the Christian minister praying and giving a sermon at the Christian funeral, Buddhist priests gathered at one place and were performing a Buddhist funeral for him. Many of us gathered to watch the service as we were curious. Ordinary caskets were like barrels but this man's casket was oblong and 4 persons carried it to the burial place.

Q: Did you go to high school in Japan?

A: No, I went 8 years of elementary school.

Q: Was the reason you came to America to study?

A: I thought I could study English in America then go back to Japan and teach English in high school. My father's cousin graduated "Doshisha" University. He was an honor student of Dr. Niijima and became a professor of the Theology school there. My grandfather's younger brother lived at a place called "Hagi" where Lord Moori's relatives lived and had a famous garden. By his introduction, his younger brother was adopted into a Samurai family there. This man's son is the one who graduated Doshisha University. This professor stopped by our place one day and left a Bible. It was a set of booklets. I looked at them but couldn't understand -- just thought they were Christian books and had no interest in them. I heard he tried to evangelized my parents but they were not interested. I remember him talking about Dr. Jo Niijima who went to Hakodate (Northern Japan), then smuggled himself to Shanghai and got on a ship to America and landed in Boston. He was helped by the owner of the steamship company, Alfred Bardley (?) and graduated from a University in America. At that time, the first Ambassador from Japan to America, Ambassador Iwakura came to America. They needed an interpreter and learned of Dr. Niijima and asked him to act as an interpreter. Dr. Niijima layed out some conditions. That was that he came to America without a passport. If Japan would not

punish him for his act when he returned to Japan, he would interpret, I understand that his request was granted and he acted as the interpreter.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He was a farmer. He owned land and grew rice and etc's.  
My third younger brother is operating it now.

Q: Could you tell me something about your trip on the steamship to America?

A: Those days, eye examination was very strict so I went to an eye doctor in Yokohama before I got on the ship. I got on the "America Maru", one of the three steamships that carried passengers to America. The sea was very rough -- it took us 12 days to reach Honolulu -- usually it took 10 days. I got seasick the first several days and couldn't eat at all but got use to it later.

Q: What did you do when you reached Hawaii?

A: We were sent to a quarantine station first. The examination wasn't too hard. I passed it and went to Haramoto Hotel -- then arranged a boat to Hilo. My uncle met me there and took me to his place by horse and buggy. I spent "Tencho-setsu"<sup>1</sup> and next New Year there. I remember on February 14th Japanese-Russian war started. We left Honolulu about that time and reached San Francisco on February 22. When we left Hawaii, at the plantation, there were lots of commotion about the war.

Q: Did you work in Hawaii?

A: I was still young. My uncle got me a job pulling weeds. My desire was to learn English so I started to attend a



night school. My teacher was half Chinese and half Hawaiian and was married to a Hawaiian.

Q: When did you arrive in Hawaii?

A: In October 1887.

Q: What sort of persons were there on the ship?

A: Some were returning to Hawaii. Some were from Kagoshima and Kumamoto Prefecture. I didn't converse with them much because it was hard to understand their dialect.

Q: Were there some brides on the ship?

A: No, there wasn't. They started to come a little later. I myself married a picture bride some years later. I left Japan when I was 16 and got married when I was 30 years old. The first Japanese pastor here (Loomis) was Rev. Naito. His wife was from Hirosaki, Japan. I was from Yamaguchi. She wanted me to marry a girl from Aomori, Japan but my mother was against my marrying a girl from another area. Unless the marriage was recorded in Japan, a wife could not come to this country. It took quite a while to get my family's approval so I was about 30 years old when I got married. My mother suggested other persons but by that time, I had decided to live permanently in this country and had corresponded with this person in Aomori and we understood each other quite well.

Q: Did your mother finally approve the marriage?

A: It was with the understanding that she go and meet my mother in Yamaguchi. I heard she went there with an elderly lady chaperon. My mother met her and liked her and I understand they had an elaborate wedding ceremony.

there. My wife stayed in Yamaguchi Prefecture about three months and then came to Tokyo as she had a younger brother in Aoyama Institute there. He was a scholar in literature but died before he graduated. In Tokyo, my wife prepared her trip to America and came here on the "Shunyo Maru" from Yokohama.

Q: Were you farming then?

A: Yes, I owned land and was farming.

Q: What year was this?

A: It was 1917 in March.

Q: Was your impression of her different than what you saw in her picture?

A: No. We sent each other many pictures and my impression wasn't different. She wore eye glasses which didn't look very good so I bought her a better pair in San Francisco. At the immigration office, Mrs. Austin whom I became acquainted in Watsonville was there. She was a person born in Yokohama, Japan and was married to a lawyer but he died. She spoke beautiful Japanese and was an interpreter at the immigration office. My wife was surprised because she was a Caucasian and spoke Japanese well.

Q: Did you bring her to Loomis immediately?

A: No. The marriage in Japan was not recognized here so we had to get our marriage license in San Francisco. We went to a Japanese hotel. A Buddhist priest came but I told him I had already arranged for a Christian minister and sent the priest back. Rev. Z. Hirota married us.

The witness was a lawyer.

Q: How old was your wife then?

A: She was 24 years old.

Q: I want to go back and ask of your first impression of America.

A: I thought San Francisco was pretty and imagined that America was a big country. I lived in Watsonville for a while -- came to Sacramento and looked around for property in Marysville and etcs. A real estate man in Rocklin introduced me to the property in Loomis. At that time, properties in Livingston, California called the "Yamato Colony" were on sale too. I was prepared to go to Livingston if I couldn't buy a place in Loomis. In those days, I pondered quite a bit whether to remain in United States or return to Japan. There was anti-Japanese feelings over here but I thought even if I studied English, I didn't have enough education in Japan to go back and teach high school there. Others rented farm land but I finally decided to buy a farm land. Where I worked as a school boy, they had an apple orchard. I watched the workers often. I decided to become a fruit farmer because blossoms were pretty in the spring, in the summer we got nice fruits and in the fall the color of the leaves were beautiful. I didn't like to get in the water and plant rice like they do in Japan. I thought the orchard in Loomis was about the right size for me so I bought it. When I decided to buy a farm, I quit school and started to work because I needed the money. I picked

but those days I got only 10 cents an hour. Caucasian farmers paid  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents. By doing piece work, I got more money. I worked very hard to earn enough to buy a place. I made the down payment but it wasn't easy to make the rest of the payments, I struggled very hard. I sold that land and bought this one. I've been here over 50 years now.

Q: Where was the other ranch?

A: It was near the town of Loomis. Altogether, I have lived here about 60 years. At first, I leased this land for about 3 years. When the owner died, I decided to buy the place. It wasn't so expensive those days but I didn't have enough so I went to the Federal Land Bank and borrowed some money.

Q: You were fortunate that you were able to borrow. Were Japanese able to get a loan those days?

A: I think it was possible but not many applied for it. They didn't know about it. I was fortunate to get the loan but it took me a long time to pay it up. I cashed my life insurance policy I had and used that money, too.

Q: How were the feelings of the Caucasians toward Japanese those days?

A: Some were friendly and some were not. The owner of this place was very helpful to us. They lived in Sacramento and came here on Sundays just for a while. The two storied house here was vacant most of the time. They built us a good sized cabin just below this house, and we

lived there. Our first child was born there. Three years later the owner died. His younger brother was anti-Japanese. His name was Sullivan. He and his sister-in-law went to court and fought over this property. It took 2 or 3 years to settle the case. During this time, I bought the property.

Q: Did you buy it from the widow?

A: Yes. I made the down payment and borrowed the rest from the Federal Bank and paid the owner in full.

Q: When you first arrived in America, did anything sad happen?

A: There were so much anti-Japanese feelings those days. They called us "Japs" and threw things at us. When I made a trip to Marysville to look for a land someone threw rocks. It took strong determination to decide to buy land and live here permanently. Most of the Japanese thought they would work a while, make some money and go back to Japan.

Q: You certainly had courage didn't you?

A: Japan was so small and crowded. Over here, there were lots of open land and I felt that I would be more settled and relaxed here. Many praised me as a forerunner but I didn't succeed as well as some of the others. My wife was a good helper and she worked hard. I don't have large amount of money but I traveled a lot. I traveled through America, to Europe, South America and Japan. I have four children, 2 boys and 2 girls but I don't have to ask them for money. I am using my savings. Children tell me I don't have to leave money. They tell

me to enjoy myself. My wife suffered rheumatism and she had difficulty in walking. I helped her cook and do household chores. Because of this, my son here got married young. They lived here and took good care of us so I am giving this property to them. This year, profit was good on our farm but the last several years, it wasn't good. The expenses have been to high. My son has started another business, He started to work part time for Cardinal Construction Co. leveling land with a tractor. He does a good job and became a specialist at it. He bought another tractor, hired a person and took more jobs. Now he has three large tractors. During summer vacation, my grandson uses one. When he can't work, my son hires another man and pays him by the hour. Last year, my son grossed \$65,000.00. 2/3 goes toward expenses and the rest goes toward the payment on the equipment but when that's paid up he will have quite an asset. This year, he netted about \$20,000.00 from the ranch and \$25,000.00 from tractor work. He has to pay about \$10,000.00 towards 1973 income tax. This is not usual. He says we can't make money by farming but I have this ranch and I hate to give it up. We get bad frost in this area so we have installed pipes and drains to protect the fruits with a water system. It took us about \$400.00 per acre to install the system but if we can avoid frost damage one year the expense is cleared. Before, we received State Aid in installing but now they don't have any funds. We installed it at the right time and received

2/3 of the expense from the State. The State engineers came and surveyed and planned everything for us. This is about 15 to 20 years ago. When the temperature drops to about 32 degrees, we keep pumping water on the fruit trees with tiny fruits until the sun comes out. By doing this, the tiny fruits do not freeze. If we don't, they become black and fall off. One year, a heavy frost came on March 25th and our fruits were saved. Two professors from University of California, two State Agriculture Commissioners and a farm advisor from Auburn came to see my place. They said this system was more effective than blowers or burning oil in the orchards for frost protection. We are the only farmers that have this system around here. Someone in Chico installed this system in an almond ranch. One cold spring, their almonds were saved and they made about \$100,000.00 that year. The installation cost was about \$15,000.00 for the 150 acre ranch.

Q: Do you remember having any difficult times?

A: In our daily life? During WWI, we made some money. We were forced to buy government bonds then. My wife and I accumulated about \$10,000.00 in bonds. During the 1930-1932 depression, the savings helped us. We had four children then and no income. The fruits were cheap and no buyers. Those years were the worst times.

Q: When did you buy the ranch?

A: In 1910.

Q: Did you buy the house, too?

A: It was on the ranch.

Q: Did you have a hard time buying the ranch?

A: No, these people were nice.

Q: Were you a member of the Japanese Association Kenjin Kai (Prefecture club) or a church?

A: There was no church in 1910. Rev. Yoshida came from Sacramento once a month to preach to several of us. Had home meetings. Then a Presbyterian Church (beginning of present Parkview Church) was built in Sacramento, Rev. Shohei Arai came there. He heard that I had attended the Presbyterian Church in Watsonville and came to visit me. I took him around to visit my friends in Loomis. When Rev. Yoshida heard this, he did not like it. In 1911, there was a Pacific Coast Japanese Methodist Church Conference. At this conference, probably at Rev. Yoshida's recommendation, they decided to name the Loomis group, Japanese Methodists. There was no church then. In 1913, a Drew University Theological School graduate, Rev. Yukichi Naito and his wife were appointed here. There was no parsonage so I repaired an old house on my ranch and made it a temporary parsonage. There was an Episcopal Church here but was not used so we rented it for our church. And then in 1913 we bought the 10 acres where our present church (Loomis First United Methodist) is located. In 1913, the Alien Land Law prohibiting aliens from buying land came into effect. We bought the property just one day before and had it recorded in Auburn.



Q: When did you buy your property?

A: I bought mine way before that law. I could have kept that property but sold it to buy this one. By that time, the Alien Land Law was in effect. A young man came from Hawaii. At that time, I was Sunday School superintendent and was teaching the youth class. He came into my class and we became acquainted with each other. He had a aunt in Penryn. Her husband worked in a gambling joint and he did not like to live with them so he came to stay with me. He went to Kansas City and became an auto mechanic, came back here and was an auto dealer for a while. He moved to Los Angeles and went into the garage business and succeeded. A Japanese Congregational pastor introduced him to one of his members daughter and he got married. The father-in-law had a property in Clovis, when the father-in-law died, this family moved to Clovis and are still operating an orange farm.

Q: Did you buy your property in this man's name?

A: Yes, I did. It was arranged as though I leased the land from him. I left it in his name (Yoshida) until I got my citizenship which was after WWI. It wasn't changed over to my son's name when he became of age. Many people had trouble after they bought property this way but Mr. Yoshida and I never had trouble. We still have close ties. I've been here over 50 years.

Q: When was the church built?

A: After we bought the 10 acres in 1913, 4 or 5 persons rented it and grew strawberries. Instead of paying rent

they built a parsonage on the property. That parsonage is not there anymore. In 1916, we built the first church building. I was on the building committee in Watsonville and again when we built the Loomis church. In 1955, we built the present Education Building and in 1966, we built the present sanctuary. Rev. Roy Sano was here during the planning stage for the latter. From about that time, Caucasians started to come to our church. He left and we completed the Sanctuary when Rev. Corson was here. Rev. Ernst came after him. He is the second Caucasian pastor appointed to us.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I like to travel and see places. I made a world tour, a South America tour and to Japan and South East Asia and Taiwan. Last year, I went to Northern Europe and visited 11 countries. I'm retired and I help the church now.

Q: Where did your children go to school?

A: They went to elementary school in Loomis and high school in Roseville. At the time of evacuation, elder daughter was at San Francisco State College and the second daughter was at University of California in Berkeley. Eldest son just graduated from high school. We went into camp and the girls left Tule Lake WRA center to go to school. The elder girl went to Indiana and graduated college there. The second went to a hospital in Colorado for a while but she moved to St. Louis and went to Washington Nursing School as a cadet nurse and graduated there. The elder son went into the service and was in the 442 Battalion.

Germany surrendered just as he went overseas. Both of my sons were in service but they did not have to go to the front line. They did office work. After he was discharged, the older son entered University of California at Davis with the G.I. Bill and graduated. The younger son graduated Roseville High School after WWI. He volunteered for the Air Force but was not taken for air force duty because of his eyes. He was sent to Photography School in Denver and then sent to Iceland to take photographs for the Air Force. After his discharge, he also entered college with the G.I. Bill but got married before graduation. Lives in Sacramento and works for the State now. He kept studying and has been promoted several times. They have two children. The older one is attending University of California and the younger one in high school. His wife had been working in a doctor's office. He doesn't like to farm.

Q: Were you here when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: Yes, I lived here. It was on a Sunday and on the way to church I heard about it over the radio in my car but couldn't believe it. When I got home, I turned the radio on and the news of the Pearl Harbor attack was broadcasted extensively and I thought what an awful thing happened. I was shocked. Before long, the chairman of the Japanese Association and several others were taken in for detention. I had served as the chairman of the Japanese Association once but I wasn't taken in. Probably, because it was about 5 years before.

Q: What did you do at the time of evacuation of the Japanese from the West coast?

A: I thought we couldn't come back here. Thought about selling everything but decided not to. I stored my car in the little house on the ranch. We took our children and evacuated. Each took a duffle bag of our belongings. The bus took us to Marysville Center and from there we were moved to Tule Lake WRA Center. When Tule Lake became a segregated center, we went to Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho. Because our son was working in Ontario, Oregon, I requested to go to a center near him. He was drafted into the army a little later. Our daughters were relocated in the east. When the war ended, I requested through the Red Cross to have our older son who was stationed in Florida to come and help us move our belongings to Loomis. By that time, we had our beds, refrigerator and some furniture with us. We had the WRA send them to us from Loomis. They paid the transportation expense.

Q: Why did they do that?

A: I guess they wanted us to relocate outside of the center. People who were living in our house at the time didn't like us taking the beds and refrigerator but they weren't paying rent.

Q: Did you know the people who lived in your house?

A: No, they were people we didn't know. I left the fruit ranch in care of the Fruit Growers Association and they managed it. I heard the fruit prices were good those

years but I didn't receive much money from them. It was almost nothing.

Q: When you came home, were your things here?

A: No, farm tools and many things were gone and we didn't know who took them. Just some dishes were left.

Q: How did you feel at the time of the evacuation?

A: I thought we just had to go. Some cried and were upset. I tried not to get upset because it would bother our children.

Q: How old were your children?

A: The eldest was about 19 or 20. She graduated high school at 16 or 17. The youngest was 10 or 11 years old.

Q: How were the Caucasians toward you at that time?

A: They didn't come to say goodbye. I guess they weren't feeling good because Japan had attacked and publicity about Japan was bad at that time.

Q: Did anything happen while you were in Marysville?

A: Nothing particular happened. Workers were all Japanese. We went to eat in the mess hall when the bell rang. I was a monitor there. At Tule Lake, I was a Ward Leader. The job was to help the evacuees in the block.

Q: What sort of responsibility did you have?

A: Duties such as lining up people when we went to the mess hall. If anyone stayed up late and was too noisy, I had to ask them to quiet down.

Q: Did anyone complain to you?

A: No, there wasn't any in Marysville. The evacuees there were all from this area. At Tule Lake we had some pro-

Japan people. We Christians were branded as spies for America and were tormented. Among us Japanese it was like this.

Q: Did you feel any danger?

A: Yes, some were hit. Because of my job, I went to the office often and a truck brought me back. Some called me spies but was not hit physically. We were all Japanese but some were like that. They called themselves "Pro-Japan".

Q: Did you feel sad?

A: I wasn't happy about it. A person named Mr. Asazawa told these people, "I am not for Japan or America. I'm neutral but if you want to hit me go ahead." He wasn't hit.

Q: Was Block Manager a full time job?

A: Yes.

Q: What sort of job was it?

A: A block consisted of 6 barracks where evacuees lived and one mess hall. I toured the block and mess hall every day. Once a week, we had a movie in the mess hall. We sold tickets at about 5 cents. My job was to assist the people in the block. Our salary was \$19.00 a month same as doctors. Carpenters and laborers received \$16.00.

Q: Were there any problems?

A: There wasn't any problem. We were suppose to keep the block peaceful.

Q: Did you have any difficulty?

A: No one had a fight in our block. Everyone was peaceful.

Q: When did you leave the center?

A: When I went to the center in Idaho, I went outside and worked with my son in an apple ranch.

Q: Where was your wife?

A: She stayed inside the center. She had a job helping visitors from outside -- such as lending them blankets and etcs. She registered them and reported their names to the office.

Q: What kind of persons were the visitors?

A: They were Japanese evacuees who had relocated outside. They came into visit relatives and friends. Later, when I was made foreman of the apple ranch, I brought my family outside. The owner of the apple ranch was a person who had the "Mayfair" groceries in Los Angeles. He invested his profits in the apple ranch. The manager's wife was a friend of a family I had worked for as a school boy. Since I had some experience on an apple farm, I was made the foreman. They gave me a house and a cow and the feed for the cow. There was more milk than we could use because there were only three of us then. The salary wasn't too good those days but they gave us a place to live. My wife made apple pies and etcs. That's when we brought our beds and refrigerator from Loomis. I made quite a bit of savings while I worked there.

Q: You weren't tormented during the war personally, were you?

A: No, not much.

Q: What sort of difficulties did you have when you returned to Loomis?

A: I didn't have too much difficulties. I went to a meat market and they told me I didn't have to pay cash each time. I could pay it monthly like before. There was one store, Low Brothers who didn't like Japanese. They had a "No Jap" sign. And a shoe store named Ferguson didn't like Japanese. Mrs. Low was Red Cross Chairman in Loomis for a while. When we asked for assistance, she didn't help us. We didn't feel good about that. After her, Mrs. Nixon became the chairman. She was friendly toward Japanese. Her husband was the head of the Fruit Growers Association and was good to us.

Q: Were you able to move into your house as soon as you came back?

A: No. The contract was for the tenants to vacate on one month's notice but they were still there. We moved into the upstairs rooms. They weren't paying any rent, I guess they hated to leave. When we wrote them, they wrote back that the atmosphere around there was not so good and for us not to return.

Q: What do you want to say or leave to the third and fourth generation Japanese?

A: I can't write but I would like to let them know that the Issei Japanese <sup>2</sup> underwent hardships. We didn't know English very well, worked hard to send our children to college and made it possible for them to have their position now. I feel sorry now that we Christians didn't



send our children to Language School like the Buddhists. I tell my grandchildren to attend language school while young but they say it's too hard and don't want to go. One of my granddaugther who graduated U.C at Davis this past February is studying Japanese now.

Q: What do you want to let the Sanseis<sup>3</sup> know?

A: That they are Japanese by race and should know the Japanese language. My younger daughter, Mary Kozono's eldest son went to Hawaii after he studied at Berkeley 5 years. He went to Hawaii after graduation and he is researching and working for a professor now. He didn't know Japanese but he started studying since he went over there and writes to me in Japanese "Kana". His grandmother on his father's side is 94 years old now. She is also very happy that he writes to her in Japanese now. He will be married to a Japanese girl there in January (1974). We are all going to the wedding. Mary's daughter, Patty is a dancer and lives in New York now. Her younger son is at U.C.Berkeley.

Q: Thank you for talking to me for a long while.

## Appendix

Tencho-setsu<sup>1</sup> - Meiji Emperor's birthday, November 3. Page 6

Issei Japanese<sup>2</sup> - First generation Japanese. Page 22

Sansei<sup>3</sup> - Third generation Japanese. Page 23.